



COVID-19 UPDATE FOR TRIBAL NATIONS

4/9/20 5:39PM

In the continuing spirit of transparency and collaboration, the Department of Health Services would like to inform you on the three most salient COVID-19 issues that the Department is currently addressing:

Wednesday 4/8

- In partnership with the Secretary of State, the Governor [issued an executive order](#) allowing virtual notary services. This will be administered by the Secretary of State's office and they will begin accepting applications tomorrow.
- The Governor [announced](#) a mobile hotspot donation drive to help K-12 students in need access curriculum during this emergency. ADE is working with schools across the state to distribute devices to students.
- Additionally, the Governor [announced](#) that AHCCCS will work with its provider partners to accelerate hospital payments and extend \$5 million in COVID-19 related funding to critical access hospitals throughout the state.
- Lastly, we continue to receive inquiries related to unemployment insurance benefits. DES is working to implement the new federal guidelines related to this. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please take a look at our [policy primer](#) on the topic.

Thursday 4/9

- Today, the Governor [issued](#) an executive order that provides "Good Samaritan" protections to frontline health professionals responding to the COVID-19 emergency.
- Additionally, Arizona received [approval](#) from the USDA to allow SNAP recipients to use their benefits for online food purchases through approved retailers like Amazon and Walmart.
- Lastly, the Governor [announced](#) this afternoon the reopening of St. Luke's Medical Center which will provide additional beds and serve as overflow capacity for hospitals if necessary.

As you all aware surveillance data is updated on a daily basis and posted to our website.

The link below provides the most up-to-date health surveillance figures regarding COVID-19 in Arizona:

<http://azdhs.com/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/index.php#novel-coronavirus-home>

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ECONOMIC RELIEF OPTIONS

As a reminder, tribal members may access any of the relief options offered to all state citizens. The list of those resources may be found at www.ArizonaTogether.org

Tribal Nations observe a federal trust relationship to the exclusion of the states. In short, economic relief packages will come from the various federal agencies providing direct service to the tribes.

The National Congress of American Indians and other national non-profits are taking the lead in working with federal partners to disseminate this information and study the various options and most importantly, how to apply. Tribal Consultations are on the horizon to focus on:

- What would a formula/methodology to allocate the \$8B look like?
- What qualifies as an expenditure related to COVID-19?

If you have questions, please call 602-542-4426 or email gotrinfo@az.gov



COVID-19 ACCURATE INFORMATION

Center for Disease Control

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

Indian Health Service (IHS)

www.ihs.gov/coronavirus

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

www.bia.gov/covid-19



The C.A.R.E.S. Act

The following organizations have partnered to track and offer weekly calls with Tribal Leaders to review the status and content of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act:

Native American Finance Officers Association

<https://www.nafoa.org/coronavirus>

National Indian Health Board

<https://www.nihb.org/index.php>

National Congress of American Indians

<http://www.ncai.org/>

National American Indian Housing Council
<http://naihc.net/>

National Indian Gaming Association
<https://www.indiangaming.org/>

Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative
<https://indigenousfoodandag.com/>

Native American Contractors Association
<http://www.nativecontractors.org/>

National Council of Urban Indian Health
<https://www.ncuih.org/index>

National Indian Education Association
<https://www.niea.org/>